

AIR QUALITY



country's farmers remain productive and competitive.

The 2002 Farm Bill allowed the Natural Resources Conservation Service for the first time to spend money to help farmers reduce their pollution in regions that do not meet federal clean air standards.

The NRCS office in California has spent about \$5 million annually in the San Joaquin Valley since 2002 to share with farmers the cost of replacing or retrofitting diesel irrigation pumps, chipping orchard cuttings, controlling road dust, and converting to conservation tillage. That money has produced measurable and permanent pollution reductions in a region that has some of the worst air quality in the nation. However, more than half the California applicants have been turned away each year because the need is so great and funding is so limited.

Air pollution is not just a city problem. In rural areas around the country, smog and soot are threatening public health, fouling communities, and reducing crop productivity. Unfortunately, some California agricultural regions suffer some of the worst air pollution in the country.

Some of that air pollution is carried into rural America on currents blowing in from cities, or by cars, trucks, trains and planes traveling through. But pollution is also generated right on the farm. It comes from tailpipes on older machinery, from dust in roads and fields, from burning waste, and from waste and feed management on animal operations.

Farmers face new regulations and new challenges to reduce air pollution, including global warming pollutants. The 2007 Farm Bill presents an opportunity to help farmers adopt practices and technologies that will cut air pollution. The investment will reap healthier air for all Americans, and help our



California Supports:

- Create a subprogram within the Farm Bill's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) that addresses air pollution.
- Increase funding for cost-share and incentives to help farmers in the most polluted regions and adopt new practices and technologies that reduce farm-generated air pollution.